

Communications Plan

Sky Valley Education Center, Monroe School District
PCB Fluorescent Light Ballasts Compliance Inspection
Draft 3/18/2016

SUMMARY

- EPA received complaints beginning in 2014-2015 [??] from staff at the Sky Valley Education Center in Monroe about PCB light ballasts leaking, as well as general concern from the teachers about the school environment and their health. Sky Valley is an alternative school with approx. 1000 students. EPA also received information related to the PCBs complaints from the Snohomish County Health District.
- EPA PCB experts are visiting Sky Valley Education Center the week of March 21, to meet with facilities and school managers in order to ensure that students and staff at the school are protected from exposure to PCBs, and to ensure compliance with federal regulations.
- EPA's Region 5 compliance inspector will conduct an inspection of the school's PCB Fluorescent Light Ballasts (FLBs), take samples for testing, and observe past and current cleanup and replacement efforts underway by the school and district facilities managers. (b) (5)
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- On March 11, 2016, staff from Snohomish County Health, WA Department of Ecology, and WA Department of Health also conducted a visual inspection of a classroom(s) reported to have had a PCBs ballast spill(s) and other environmental health complaints/concerns.
- Extra attention may be brought to this issue due to EPA's inspection, and generally, PCB issues in schools have generated a lot of press interest in the past. The issue was on local news in early Feb: www.heraldnet.com/Monroe-school-on-sick-list

OUTREACH GOALS

1. Provide useful information to help school managers, staff, parents reduce exposures to PCBs
2. Inform school managers and staff of purpose and scope of upcoming EPA inspection
3. Coordinate outreach and activities with school, district, local health department, state

MESSAGES

EPA's PCBs experts are providing technical support to help school managers and staff ensure:

- Proper training and protection for maintenance staff who are conducting PCBs cleanup and ballast replacement activities
- School and district are able to identify all PCB FLBs and properly identify PCBs leaks for cleanup
- School and district are aware of how to properly clean identified leak material from PCB FLBs
- School and district are properly disposing of the PCB FLBs

- School and district are able to identify all non-leaking PCB FLBs for disposal

PCBs INFO

- Decision tree for managing PCBs in buildings:
http://www3.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/tsd/pcbs/pubs/caulk/bldg_mat_diagrm.htm
- Fact sheet on reducing exposure to PCBs in buildings:
http://www3.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/tsd/pcbs/pubs/caulk/pdf/pcb_fs_v7.pdf
- Q&A on PCBs in buildings: http://www3.epa.gov/pcbsincaulk/pdf/pcb_bdg_mat_qa.pdf

EPA CONTACTS

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R5 PCBs Compliance Inspector: Kendall Moore, 312-353-1147, moore.kendall@epa.gov
R5 Compliance Manager: Peter Ramanauskas, ramanauskas.peter@epa.gov

STATE/LOCAL CONTACTS

Snohomish County Health District: Amanda Zych, 425-339-3952/3841
WA Department of Ecology PCBs Inspector: Rachel Best, 425-649-7140, rachel.best@ecy.wa.gov
WA Department of Health: Nancy Bernard

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Sky Valley Education Center

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[PTA President Stephanie Fifield]

Monroe School District

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[Suzanne Skadowski spoke with Rosemary O'Neil by phone on March 15, 2016 to discuss upcoming EPA inspector visit and communications needs.]
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